



Californians for Electoral Reform

Promoting Full Representation Since 1993

25 September 2008

Secretary of State Debra Bowen
Office of the Secretary of State
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: 916-653-4620

Dear Secretary Bowen:

I am writing concerning the certification hearing to be held September 26, 2008, for Sequoia Voting Systems' System 4.0 with Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) capability.

Californians for Electoral Reform has reviewed the staff report, the consultant's report, and the source code report concerning Sequoia's application. We agree with the staff recommendation that the application for certification be approved. We especially urge that the certification be approved without geographical restriction, so that other jurisdictions within California that wish to use this equipment to implement Ranked Choice Voting (also known as Instant Runoff Voting, or IRV) may do so.

We note that Santa Clara County amended its charter in 1998 to allow for the use of IRV, once the technology is available. Similarly, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro, all in Alameda County, have amended their charters to either allow for or require the use of IRV. Since Sequoia is the current vendor for both Santa Clara and Alameda Counties, your certification of their equipment without geographical restriction will allow those counties to move forward with their IRV implementation plans.

In addition, jurisdictions in other parts of the state, such as Los Angeles and Long Beach, are considering the use of IRV, and the availability of certified equipment to conduct an IRV election will allow them to move forward as well.

www.cfer.org

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2008 10:36 AM
To: Voting Systems
Subject: Re: Public hearing on Sequoia certification September 26

25 September 2008

Secretary of State Debra Bowen
Office of the Secretary of State
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Bowen:

I am writing concerning the certification hearing to be held September 26, 2008, for Sequoia Voting Systems' System 4.0 with Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) capability. I am a resident, voter and homeowner in Berkeley and have worked as a Precinct Inspector in the last two elections.

I have reviewed the staff report, the consultant's report, and the source code report concerning Sequoia's application. I agree with the staff recommendation that the application for certification be approved. I especially urge that the certification be approved without geographical restriction, so that other jurisdictions within California that wish to use this equipment to implement Ranked Choice Voting (also known as Instant Runoff Voting, or IRV) may do so.

I note that Santa Clara County amended its charter in 1998 to allow for the use of IRV, once the technology is available. Similarly, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro, all in Alameda County, have amended their charters to either allow for or require the use of IRV. Since Sequoia is the current vendor for both Santa Clara and Alameda Counties, your certification of their equipment without geographical restriction will allow those counties to move forward with their IRV implementation plans.

In addition, jurisdictions in other parts of the state, such as Los Angeles and Long Beach, are considering the use of IRV, and the availability of certified equipment to conduct an IRV election will allow them to move forward as well.

Subject: RE: Sequoia Certification

Sent: wednesday, August 27, 2008 8:56 PM

To: Secretary of State Bowen

Subject: Sequoia Certification

Dear Ms. Bowen:

I understand that there will be a public hearing on September 26, 2008 regarding Sequoia certification. As I will be in Los Angeles attending the California State Employees Association Board of Directors meeting, I will be unable to attend. However, I do want to request that this certification not be limited to San Francisco. As I understand the situation, Berkeley is interested in using this system in November. Los Angeles and Long Beach seem poised to adopt a system of Instant Runoff Voting and Davis is leaning toward a type of proportional representation called choice voting.

With so many cities looking toward making their election systems more democratic, it seems that any certification should be for the whole state. I want to thank you for giving serious thought to my request.